

### REMARKS

This is submitted with the filing of an RCE for the above-identified application. The above listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Re-examination and reconsideration in light of the proposed amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

#### Rejections under 35 § USC 102

The first newly cited reference to Berner shows slots in different ends of the device. To overcome this arrangement, the claims have been amended to call for the slots to be (essentially) parallel and in the same central portion.

On the other hand, the second newly cited reference to Nehl does not have serrations. Claim 14 has therefore been amended to call for serrations. Nehl is further such that the slots which are being relied upon to anticipate the claimed second slots are actually grooves which do not extend all the way through the tongues. The claims have been amended to call for these to be "through slots."

#### Conclusion

The claims which stand before the Patent Office are deemed allowable over the art for at least the reasons advanced above. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is therefore courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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